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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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Rwanda

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
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MEMORANDUM

TO: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: PRM - Brunson McKinley, Acting *BMK*
SUBJECT: Refugee Relief Efforts

I. KEY POINTS

o UN and NGO Relief Efforts

- UN agencies and NGOs have made tremendous efforts to respond to over 2 million Rwandan refugees, most of whom fled since mid-July.
- In Burundi and Uganda, most of the relief needs are being met.
- In Zaire and Tanzania, facing large influxes, much work remains in terms of providing adequate potable water, sanitation, health care, shelter and food aid.
- Although some 100,000 of the new refugees have voluntarily repatriated, the goal of massive refugee repatriation is elusive.
- Unaccompanied minors are a special concern in this relief effort because of their numbers.

o USG Response

- The USG has provided over \$167 million in funding, food aid, and military airlift assistance to organizations responding to the Rwanda crisis.

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- 2 -

-- With the supplemental funds recently approved by Congress, another \$50 million is available to State/PRM and USAID/BHR/OFDA for Rwandan relief. The DOD has requested \$170 million in supplemental funds.

II. STATUS REPORT

Rwanda: The Rwanda crisis has generated over 2 million refugees to date, primarily Hutus fearing retribution from the Tutsi dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front. Another 2 million Rwandans have been internally displaced. Inside Rwanda, UNHCR and NGOs are providing assistance to returnees who number up to 360,000 per recent UNHCR estimates. Most of these are from the 1959-93 caseload, and not from recent events. The UN Rwanda Emergency Office (UNREO) is coordinating relief to displaced persons, together with ICRC and NGOs. The UN Center for Human Rights (HRC) is beginning to station human rights monitors. UNAMIR troops are being deployed in the former French zone.

Zaire: Zaire hosts about 1.3 million Rwandans (850,000 in Goma and 420,000 in Bukavu/Uvira). UNHCR is working with some 50 NGOs in Zaire. Because of the size of the influxes into Goma and Bukavu, relief agencies are still trying to catch up. Water supplies are adequate for emergency needs, but capacity must be increased to sustain health. Camps for the most part still lack basic sanitation facilities, although NGOs such as IRC have started latrine construction campaigns. Additional shelter material such as plastic sheeting and blankets is needed.

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- 3 -

Some 14,000 unaccompanied minors have been registered and are being cared for by NGOs. The presence of former Rwandan forces, Hutu militias, and gangs pose security problems for refugees and relief workers. Recent press reports have pointed out that many beneficiaries of humanitarian aid may be associated with the genocide in Rwanda.

Burundi: While some 100,000 Rwandan Tutsi refugees (both old and new) have recently returned to Rwanda, about 230,000 new Hutu refugees have fled to Burundi since mid-July. There are about 3,000 unaccompanied minors. Refugees are being assisted by UNHCR, WFP, IFRC and NGOs such as CARE, MSF, and Oxfam. Most have been moved to refugee camps where basic needs are being met. Some 50,000 remain in border areas, and are at risk of cross-border RPF attacks or attacks by Burundi's Tutsi-dominated military. These threats, as well as ongoing inter-ethnic tension in Burundi, have led many refugees to continue onward towards Tanzania.

Tanzania: 473,000 new Rwandan refugees have sought refuge in Tanzania. More than 100,000 came since mid-July, and up to 10,000 per week are still arriving. There are about 10,000 unaccompanied minors. Meeting basic refugee needs has been an uphill battle. Emergency water needs are covered, but poor sanitation and overcrowding are still problems in Benaco, the largest camp with some 275,000 refugees. Food aid has been fairly regular, but some gaps are expected in the coming months.

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- 4 -

Many refugees, particularly new arrivals, still lack blankets and plastic sheeting. To reduce overcrowding, and to minimize the risk of Benaco being used as a guerrilla base by a Hutu army or militias, UNHCR is working with the GOT to identify new sites for refugee settlement.

Uganda: 10,000 new Rwandan refugees are being assisted in Uganda. IFRC, with the Ugandan Red Cross, has set up two camps (Kisoro and Rwembogo) and are providing refugees with adequate health care, potable water, shelter and sanitation. WFP is providing fairly regular food aid. Assistance efforts are running smoothly, and no major security problems are reported.

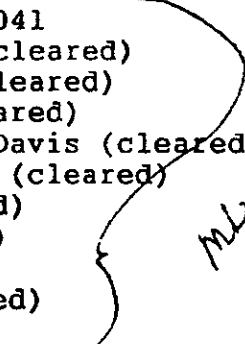
USG Funding: The USG has contributed over \$167 million towards relief for Rwandan refugees and displaced persons. This contribution includes \$37.2 million from State/PRM, \$34.8 million from USAID/BHR/OFDA, \$67.6 million in food aid from USAID/BHR/FFP, and \$26.9 million in airlift support from DoD/SOLIC/HRA. Congress approved supplemental funds for State/PRM (\$30 million) and USAID/BHR/OFDA (\$20 million). The DoD request for \$170 million in supplemental funding to reimburse Rwanda costs is still pending.

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